

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in response to the Office Action mailed September 20, 2004. In the Office Action, the Examiner accepted Applicant's election of Species III in response to the Patent Examiner's restriction requirement of February 13, 2004.

The Patent Examiner also found claim 29 to be allowable, and found claims 11, 17, and 25 also to be allowable once rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant hereby amends claims 11, 17, and 25 to read in independent form, expressly incorporating all claim language originally incorporated by reference. There is no narrowing of any of the claims by these amendments. Applicant hereby cancels claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 13, 20, and 26 through 28 without prejudice to any future or pending application covering the same or similar subject matter. Additionally, Applicant hereby amends each of the remaining dependent claims originally depending from one of the cancelled independent claims to depend instead from the corresponding foregoing allowable claim.

The Examiner appears to have taken the position that Applicant's prior election of Species III had an effect of withdrawing from consideration original claims 8, 9, 12 through 16. Applicant hereby cancels claims 9, 12, and 13 without prejudice to any current or future patent application covering this or similar subject matter, but

Applicant respectfully submits that he did not withdraw claims 8 and 14 through 16 by his election. Applicant therefore submits that claims 8 and 14 through 16 as contained in this Amendment and Response are different from the original as each now depends instead from one of the foregoing allowable claims. Consequently, Applicant submits that claims 8 and 14 through 16 are likewise in a condition for immediate allowance.

The Examiner also required the corrected spelling for the term "slideable" in claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant hereby corrects the spelling of this reference in claim 5 as well as all other references to this term in the other pending claims.

Claims 2, 3, 5 through 8, 10, 11, 14 through 19, 21 through 25, and 29 remain in this application. No new matter has been added to this application by way of any of the foregoing amendments.

Having responded to each of the Examiner's concerns, Applicant asserts that the application is now in condition for allowance and solicits such action. If a telephone interview will advance the allowance of the application, enabling an Examiner's amendment or other meaningful discussion of the case, Applicant requests the Examiner contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.


Application No. 10/090,079
Amendment dated December 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 20, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 01-10053

It is not believed that any additional fees are due; however, in the event any additional fees are due, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's attorney's deposit account no. 03-2030.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 17, 2004


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